
If these notes are useful to you, and you've enjoyed them, or if you have observations or questions feel free send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net.—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER What is your biggest concern for the summer? Keep track of each concern, and take a moment to pray for each other before you start.

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Pastor Richie has raised from Luke 20. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Pastor Richie says, "God uses you, even when you feel insecure...even when you feel unqualified." **Can you relate? Can you tell of a time where you ended up reaching out to someone where the results surprised you?**

Luke 20

Pastor Richie reviews: Jesus has been actively ministering for the last three years. He's traveled all over Judea, Samaria and the Galilee making fishers of men, teaching about the kingdom of God and calling people to repent. Laying hands on the sick, casting out demons and even raising the dead. Over this time, the anger and the frustration, the

hatred for Jesus has grown among the Pharisees and the experts in the Law. Their top concern has become to get rid of him...to arrest him. Their jealous thoughts have turned to murder. Richie says, "Imagine you're the pastor of this church, and one day, Jesus just shows up, and no one is paying attention to you anymore. What would you do?"

Answer his question. Is Jesus "causing division in the church?" What happens when someone brings division to a church?

Jesus' Authority Challenged

(Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33)

1One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the gospel, the chief priests and scribes, together with the elders, came up to Him. **2**"Tell us," they said, "by what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" **Why are they asking this question? What is the answer? Whose authority is important to the Pharisees? Whose authority matters? How do YOU distinguish the two?**

3"I will also ask you a question," Jesus replied. "Tell Me: **4**John's baptism—was it from heaven, or from men?" **Answer Jesus' question. How do you know? How could the Pharisees and the scribes know? Could they have known?**

5They deliberated among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will ask, 'Why did you not believe him?' **6**But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, for they are convinced that John was a prophet." **Look at this debate. What is wrong with this picture? Does the RIGHT answer matter to them? What do you learn of the Pharisees' mindset? From where do they actually derive their own opinion?** Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is set securely on high." **How does this verse apply here? How much legitimate authority do the Pharisees actually have?**

7So they answered that they did not know where it was from. **What is behind this answer?**

8And Jesus replied, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things." **Discuss the contrast between Jesus' bold authority, and that of the "leaders." Does Jesus know the answer? Prove it. What did Jesus do with John that none of the Pharisees did? Why did Jesus get baptized? How many answers are there to the question of John's baptism?**

Pastor Richie talked about the willingness of Christians to debate and dispute. **Why does Jesus not engage in a debate here? How did He win the debate? Can you win a debate by not engaging? Who would have benefitted if Jesus HAD engaged the leaders? What was Jesus' mission?**

Pastor Richie moved on ahead:

17But Jesus looked directly at them and said, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? **Why would the builders reject the cornerstone?**

18Everyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." **This is one of those difficult sayings. What do you get from it? Is it better to be broken to pieces? Or to be crushed? Is there another alternative?**

So, we go on to the next issue:

Paying Taxes to Caesar

(Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17)

19When the scribes and chief priests realized that Jesus had spoken this parable against them, they sought to arrest Him that very hour. But they were afraid of the people. **Explain this reaction. What did Jesus just demonstrate to the crowd? Why can the leaders not tolerate this? What are the limits to "tolerance" today?**

20So they watched Him closely and sent spies who pretended to be sincere. They were hoping to catch Him in His words in order to hand Him over to the rule and authority of the governor. **Have you ever seen this happen to a leader? Can it be an effective tactic to take down leadership?** **21**"Teacher," they inquired, "we know that You speak and teach correctly. You show no partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. **22**Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" **What do you think? Where does this question come from? Have you ever asked if taxes you're paying are "lawful"? Is this a reasonable question? Would the crowds want an answer?**

23But Jesus saw through their duplicity and said to them, [**Scribes note:** This is a gift of the Holy Spirit called "Discerning or Distinguishing of Spirits. **How practical is this gift? How does it help Jesus at this moment? What can we learn from this gift?**] **24**"Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?" [**Scribe's note:** In other words, whose name tag is on the backpack?]

"Caesar's," they answered.

25So Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." [**Scribes note:** This, too is a gift of the Holy Spirit, called a "Word of Wisdom." It explains kingdom principles in terms easy to grasp. **How effective is the Word of Wisdom in answering those who oppose the Kingdom? Why?**] **So, now say what belongs to God. What "coin" bears the image and likeness of God on it? How do you give that "coin?" How often?**

Richie says, "When we see the image of God in us, we can be sure that we belong to God." **What does that realization promote?** The enemy does not want this realization. **How do you combat this?**

Richie tells the story of when disciplining his girls, he'd threaten them with "their real dad." "That's it, I'm going to call your real dad! I'm going to return you...and," he says, "it worked! They behaved. They listened to their daddy." ***How would you behave differently if you knew you were going to be "disciplined" by your Real Dad? Would you like it?***

Are these leaders giving to God what belongs to God? Do they believe they are? How does the knowledge that WE belong to God, with His image and His inscription on our hearts, change the impact of this verse? Richie says the impact on us of this realization is God's response to us: "I will hear you. I will be with you. I will never leave you. I will heal you and I will use you for my glory." ***Is it possible to outgive God? What is the barrier to giving to God what belongs to God?*** Richie says, "When we surrender all, who's going to stop us?" ***Answer this question. How does this answer today's woes practically?***

26And they were unable to trap Him in His words before the people; and amazed at His answer, they fell silent. ***Summarize the principle. Did Jesus answer them well? Could there have been a better answer? What happened when you began to sing, "I Surrender All"?***

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's corner: The rest of the chapter

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

(Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12)

9Then He proceeded to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it out to some tenants, and went away for a long time. ***10***At harvest time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed.

11So he sent another servant, but they beat him and treated him shamefully, sending him away empty-handed.

12Then he sent a third, but they wounded him and threw him out.

13'What shall I do?' asked the owner of the vineyard. 'I will send my beloved son. Perhaps they will respect him.'

14But when the tenants saw the son, they discussed it among themselves and said, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ***15***So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? **16**He will come and kill those tenants, and will give the vineyard to others.”

And when the people heard this, they said, “May such a thing never happen!”

Look up Hebrews 11: 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused their release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. **36**Still others endured mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

37They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were put to death by the sword. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and mistreated. **38**The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground.

39These were all commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. **40**God had planned something better for us, so that together with us they would be made perfect.

How accurately does the parable describe the history of Israel? Notice: “such a thing” happened within days at the end of this very week...How does this clarify the dangers of leadership and commitment? Talk about the fickle nature of the crowd.

The Sadducees and the Resurrection

(Matthew 22:23–33; Mark 12:18–27)

27Then some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to question Him. **28**“Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man is to marry his brother’s widow and raise up offspring for him. **29**Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a wife, but died childless. **30**Then the second **31**and the third married the widow, and in the same way all seven died, leaving no children. **32**And last of all, the woman died. **33**So then, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For all seven were married to her.”

34Jesus answered, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. **35**But those who are considered worthy to share in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. **36**In fact, they can no longer die, because they are like the angels. And since they are sons of the resurrection, they are sons of God.

37Even Moses demonstrates that the dead are raised, in the passage about the burning bush. For he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ **38**He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive.”

39Some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, You have spoken well!” **40**And they did not dare to question Him any further. **What does this say about life in the Resurrection?**

Whose Son Is the Christ?

(Matthew 22:41–46; Mark 12:35–37)

[41](#) Then Jesus declared, “How can it be said that the Christ is the Son of David? [42](#) For David himself says in the book of Psalms:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand
[43](#) until I make Your enemies
a footstool for Your feet.”’

[44](#) Thus David calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how can He be David’s son?” **Answer Jesus’ question.**

Beware of the Scribes

(Mark 12:38–40)

[45](#) In the hearing of all the people, Jesus said to His disciples, [46](#) “Beware of the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, and they love the greetings in the marketplaces, the chief seats in the synagogues, and the places of honor at banquets. [47](#) They defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive greater condemnation.” **Relate this to the scandals of today’s church. What does it mean to “beware?” What does it not mean?**